

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13
ACDA-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SSM-05 /097 W
-----231453 012254 /41

R 231350Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4986

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 1300

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: CABINET COMMUNIQUE DISCUSSION OF THE
SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. FOR RECORD PURPOSES THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE CABINET COMMUNIQUE REPORTING THE DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IN THE CABINET MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20. BEGIN TEXT: THE PRIME MINISTER, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE REVIEWED THE TALKS THAT WERE HELD WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. IN THESE TALKS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE REITERATED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY AKD STRENGTH, AS WELL AS THE PRINCIPLE ACCEPTED BY THE (U.S.) ADMINISTRATION--THAT A STRONG ISRAEL IS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE PROSPECT OF THE SUCCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN IT AND ITS NEIGHBORS ON A REGIONAL SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE DWELT ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO PERSIST IN CLOSE CONTACTS, RELATIONS OF TRUST AND INTIMATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. HE DWELT ON THE SPECIAL RELATIONS EXTANT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR SOME THIRTY YEARS, AND WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A FIRM BASIS FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IN THE REGION. FROM THE SECRETARY'S ASPECT, THE VISIT TO THE REGION WAS CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING POSITIONS--AND NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS OR SUBMISSION OF PLANS ON
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THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. THE NEXT PHASE IN U.S. ACTIVITY IN THE REGION WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE REGIONAL LEADERS' VISITS TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY-- AND THE U. S. GOVERNMENT WILL THEN RESOLVE FOR ITSELF THE MEANS AND MANNER WHEREBY IT CAN ACT FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE. AT THAT TIME, TOO, IT HAS NO INTENTION OF SETTING OUT WITH AN OVERALL PROGRAM OF ITS OWN. THE U.S. VIEWS

ITS ROLE AS A FACTOR ACCELERATING, MEDIATING AND PROMOTING THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONVEYED TO THE PRIME MINISTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER, WHEREIN HE INVITES THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MARCH. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER OF INVITATION REITERATES THE EXPRESSIONS IN FAVOR OF THE "SPECIAL RELATIONS" AND THE NEED FOR PERSONAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE COMMON GOAL-- WHICH IS ATTAINMENT OF REGIONAL PEACE.

2. AS MATTERS NOW APPEAR, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977. THERE IS UNANIMITY OF OPINION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL THAT THIS CONVENING MUST BE CAREFULLY PREPARED, IN ORDER TO OBVIATE THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE THAT WOULD GIVE RISE TO NEGATIVE TRENDS IN THE REGIONAL SITUATION.

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MADE IT CLEAR THAT BOTH HE AND THE U.S. PRESIDENT ACCEPT ALL THE POLITICAL COMMITMENTS WHICH THE PREVIOUS (U.S.) ADMINISTRATION UNDERTOOK VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF CONCLUSION OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 ARE THE SOLE BASIS FOR ANY NEGOTIATIONS. COMPOSITION OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MUST IN FUTURE, TOO, BE DETERMINED ONLY WITH THE CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED. AS FOR THE PLO, THE SECRETARY OF STATE MADE IT CLEAR THAT AS LONG AS THAT ORGANIZATION DOES NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S UNCLASSIFIED

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RIGHT OF EXISTENCE, AS LONG AS THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT ACCORDINGLY ALTER THE DOCUMENT STYLED, "THE NATIONAL COVENANT," AND AS LONG AS THE ORGANIZATION DOES NOT ACCEPT RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338--THE U.S. HAS NOTHING TO DISCUSS WITH THE PLO AS A PARTNER IN THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS.

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS MADE COGNIZANT OF ISRAEL'S GOAL, WHICH IS TO ATTAIN OVERALL PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS ATTENDED BY SECURING DEFENSIBLE BORDERS. THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR IN THE DELINEATION OF DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, EVEN IN THE ERA OF MODERN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY, WAS EXPLAINED AND EMPHASIZED. IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT RELINQUISH THE POSSIBILITIES OF SELF-DEFENSE, AND THAT-- SUBJECT TO THE NECESSITY FOR DEFENSIBLE BORDERS--ISRAEL IS PREPARED FOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. NEITHER THE ISRAELI SIDE NOR THE AMERICAN VISITOR EMBARKED UPON THE DRAWING OF MAPS OF POSSIBLE SETTLEMENTS. ISRAEL'S REPRESENTATIVES MADE IT CLEAR THAT JUST AS THE ARAB STAND ON THE ISSUE OF COOPTING THE PLO TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WAS

DELAYING THE CONFERENCE'S CONVENING, SO WAS THE ARAB STAND
OF "NOT A SINGLE INCH" SABOTAGING THE PROSPECTS OF A PEACE
SETTLEMENT IN THE REGION.

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ACDA-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SSM-05 /097 W
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5. WITH REFERENCE TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON,
THE SECRETARY OF STATE ANNOUNCED HIS READINESS TO RAISE
THE SUBJECT DURING HIS VISIT TO BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS--IN AN
ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A FIRMER, AGREED AND DURABLE BASIS FOR
THE DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN THAT SENSITIVE REGION.

6. CONCERNING BILATERAL ISSUES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE
REITERATED AND STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISIONS
IN CONNECTION WITH THE "KFIR" DEAL AND THE SUPPLY OF
"CONCUSSION BOMBS" HAD BEEN TAKEN NOT IN THE CONTEXT OF
U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS NOR IN ANY CONNECTION WHATSOEVER
RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, BUT IN THE CONTEXT
OF DETERMINATION OF A NEW DIRECTION IN U.S. POLICY IN A
NUMBER OF SPHERES--INCLUDING THE SALE OF CERTAIN MILITARY
TECHNOLOGIES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AND TO CERTAIN REGIONS
IN PARTICULAR. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID THAT HIS
GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING EXCLUSION OF THE "CONCUSSION
BOMBS" FROM USE BY THE FORCES OF THE U.S. ITSELF. HE
EXPRESSED READINESS TO DISCUSS THE SUPPLY OF MEANS
OF WARFARE THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE FOR ISRAEL A SUBSTITUTE
FOR BOMBS OF THIS TYPE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE U.S. WOULD
REFRAIN FROM THE SUPPLY OF MODERN MILITARY TECHNOLOGY TO
CERTAIN COUNTRIES, AND WAS ACTIVE AMONG OTHER STATES IN
THIS DIRECTION.

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7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED THAT HE HAD DRAWN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE DISTRESS OF SYRIAN JEWRY, WHO, DESPITE LOCAL CONCESSIONS, WERE FORBIDDEN THE MAIN THING--LEAVING SYRIA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO RAISED THE GRAVE SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWRY, WITH THE STRICT RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXTENT OF DEPARTURE AND THE OPPRESSION OF THOSE APPLYING FOR EXIT PERMITS--CONTRARY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER AND TO THE RESOLUTIONS AND SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE.

8. THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE SUMMED UP THAT IN THEIR EVALUATION, THE VISIT TO ISRAEL HAD ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE, IN THAT IT ENABLED THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO GET CLOSELY ACQUAINTED WITH ISRAEL'S POSITIONS. THE GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVES ELUCIDATED THE ISRAELI POSITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S AND THE KNESSET'S RESOLUTIONS. THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN A FRIENDLY AND FRANK ATMOSPHERE. END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: TEL AVIV
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Image Path:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3247306
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT: CABINET COMMUNIQUE DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, IS, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a1461c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009